

APPLICANT(S): DAVID, Ofer et al
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet. In Figure 1, previously omitted element 30 has been added. Formal drawing sheet of FIG 1 will be filled upon indication of allowability.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been rejected. Claims 1,2,5,9 and 10 have been amended.

Claims 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims, specification and drawings add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are dependent on claims 1 and 9 and therefore also overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claims 1-10.

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Remarks to the Title

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to the Title because the Title is allegedly not descriptive. Accordingly, a new title is provided that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Remarks to the Drawings

Fig. 1 has been amended to match the specification and to correct a typographical error. The entire drawing sheet containing each corrected drawing is enclosed for review by the Examiner. Formal drawings of Fig. 1 will be filled upon indication of allowability by the examiner.

Remarks to the Specification

The amendments to the specification are editorial in nature and do not introduce new matter.

Drawings Rejections

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference sign mentioned in the description: "component 30". Fig. 1 has been amended to include reference character "30".

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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The examiner asserts that in claim 1, the citation of "a control feedback circuit" on lines 8-15 is vague. In response, "a control feedback circuit" was amended to the clearer term "a circuit". Claims 9 and 10 were similarly amended.

The examiner asserts that in claim 1, "zones" and/or "the location of said zones" have not been clearly defined. In response, claim 1 was amended to clarify the terms "zones" and the "location of said zones". The amended claim 1 reads as follows: "... wherein said image sensor is capable of detecting **zones of intensely bright light areas in an acquired image...**").

The examiner inquires how and in what manner, in claim 1, does the "image processing means" relates "the locations of said zones with bright light areas to the respective areas". In response, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the manner in which the "image processing means" (amended to "image processor") relates the location of "said zones" to the respective areas. The amended claim 1 reads as follows: "...said circuit is coupled to an image processor that relates the locations of said zones with the respective areas on said light regulator..."

The examiner asserts that the phrase "that where detected by said image sensor" on line 12 in claim 1 is vague. In response, claim 1 was amended to exclude the words "that where detected by said image sensor".

The examiner asserts that the exact "coupled" or coupling of the image sensor with the image processing means and/or the exact interconnection of the control and feedback circuit, as recited in claim 1 has not provide a clear support for the consequence of "in a manner enabling selective operation of the light regulating means". In response, claim 1 has been amended as follows: "...said circuit is coupled to an image processor that relates the locations of said zones with the respective areas on said light regulator, in a manner enabling operation of said respective areas on said light regulator...". The word "selective" has been deleted and a clear support is now provided for the consequence of "manner enabling operation of said respective areas on said light regulator". Claim 9 has been similarly amended.

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The examiner asserts that the antecedent basis of "those areas" in claim 1 is not clear. In response, claim 1 has been amended as follows: "those area" has been deleted and a definition of "said respective areas on said light regulator" has been inserted.

The examiner states that in claim 1 the use of "it" or "its" and/or "that" for referring back to previously recited element/component creates confusion. In response, claim 1 has been amended to replace "it" or "its" and/or "that" for referring back to previously recited element/component with the name of the element/component. Claims 5, 9 and 10 have been similarly amended. In claim 5, "it" was replaced with "said camera". In claim 9, "its" on line 3 (of claim 9) was replaced with "the output of said image intensifier"; "it" on line 5 (of claim 9) was replaced with "said system". In claim 10, "it" on line 5 (of claim 10) has been replaced with "said circuit".

In addition, claims 1, 9, 10 have been voluntarily amended for clarification only, as follows: "light regulating means" was replaced with "light regulator". Claims 1 and 9 have been voluntarily amended as follows: "image processing means" has been replaced with "image processor".

Claim 2 has been voluntarily amended to reflect amendments of claim 1. Claim 2 has been amended as follow: "light regulating means" was replaced with "light regulator". Claim 2 has been voluntarily amended for clarification only. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim, nor is it being made for reasons of patentability.

It is respectfully asserted that the foregoing amendments merely address matters of form and does not change the literal scope of the claim in any way or result in any prosecution history estoppel.

Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments render claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 and claims 2-4 and 6-8 dependent therefrom proper under 35 USC 112 and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12 have been canceled, therefore the rejection under 35 USC 112 is now moot.

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35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Castracane et al US 6,069,352

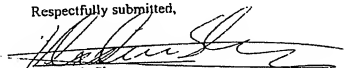
Applicants have canceled claims 11-12. Claims 11-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11-12 are canceled to expedite prosecution of the application. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3400

Respectfully submitted,



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